

need answers, and I think our veterans need answers on why it is not happening.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last night, this body approved a resolution authored by Senator WYDEN and myself designating September 2015 as National Kinship Care Month.

While many may not be aware, there are approximately 2,700,000 children living in kinship care around this country. That means millions of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other relatives are looking after children in every urban, rural, and suburban county of the United States.

These caregivers have stepped forward, often at great personal expense, out of love and loyalty to care for children during times in which biological parents are unable to do so. They provide safety, promote well-being, and establish stable homes and environments for extremely vulnerable children during very challenging circumstances.

They serve in a time of upheaval and great change for these children, assisting them to recognize their self-worth and potential.

Kinship care also enables the children to maintain family relationships and cultural heritage as they continue residence in the native community of the child.

This resolution sends a clear message that the Senate is proud of and wishes to honor these everyday heroes, kinship caregivers, who throughout the history of the United States, have provided loving homes for parentless children.

It is my hope that National Kinship Care Month can provide each of us with an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the sacrifice and devotion of kinship caregivers. And while there is still a great deal of work we can do to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs, kinship care providers exhibit a template of care and sacrifice that should be provided for every child in this great country.

I am very proud of this resolution and this acknowledgement, and I thank my colleagues for giving it their unanimous support.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID WOLK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize the achievements and contributions of a remarkable educator, a personal friend, and a celebrated leader in my home State of Vermont.

For decades, David Wolk has successfully distinguished himself as an educator and public servant to the people of Vermont. Now in his 11th year as president of Castleton University, formally known as Castleton State College, David likes to call Castleton "the small college with a big heart." As the longest serving president in its history, he has increased the college's involvement in the community and has expanded the university's commitment to civic engagement and service among students and faculty alike. His personal commitment to his hometown of Rutland, VT, is evidenced through his service as a former State senator and current role as a local justice of the peace.

As David has emboldened Castleton's primary mission to serve Vermonters, the institution has forged new partnerships and expanded its opportunities to reach far beyond its footprint in Rutland County. David's leadership is currently enabling the Castleton Polling Institute, which conducts surveys for Vermont politicians and media outlets, to expand to a national audience. Meanwhile, the Castleton Center for Schools continues to serve hundreds of Vermont educators by offering advanced continuing education opportunities each summer. Under his leadership, Castleton athletics has expanded from 12 sports at his inauguration to 27 varsity offerings, enabling Vermont students to play Division III sports. Most recently, David has provided the vision and guidance for Castleton to undergo its own transformation as the college seeks to grow its prestige and opportunities as newly named Castleton University.

David held a distinguished career in education even before stepping foot at Castleton. He served as chief of policy for former Vermont Governor Howard Dean and as the Vermont commissioner of education. Dedication to his native community of Rutland may also be witnessed by his impressive resume as a school principal, superintendent of the Rutland City Public Schools, a guidance counselor and teacher, and a college instructor. He has also served as a member of numerous boards, including the Vermont Business Roundtable, the Vermont Public Education Partnership, and the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. In recognition of these achievements, he received the 2009 Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement from the New England Board of Higher Education.

If his career is not inspiration enough, David's commitment to family surely is. The proud father of four children, David led his family through the celebration of the life and legacy of his wife, Diane, when she passed away this summer, nearly a decade after being diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's. A lifelong educator herself, Diane and David, together, gave more to their community than most. And David's compassion and commitment to Diane leaves a lasting impression on those of us who call him a friend. Marcelle and I admire him.

In recognition of David Wolk's service and resiliency, I ask unanimous consent that Terri Hallenbeck's article from the August 26, 2015, edition of Seven Days be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Seven Days, Aug. 26, 2015]

RESILIENT DAVID WOLK CHAMPIONS CASTLETON UNIVERSITY

Between the playing fields that serve the Castleton Spartans, a marble monument tells the story of the Greek king Leonidas and how he bravely resisted an army of invaders.

David Wolk chose the 22,000-pound stone from a Rochester quarry and had it polished and engraved in Barre. As Castleton's longest-serving president and its cheerleader-in-chief, he hoped the monument's message, titled "Spartan Pride," would inspire students. He installed it six years ago, just after the college football team's inaugural season in a brand-new stadium.

Players quickly made the monument the focus of a new Castleton tradition, stopping to touch it on their way to practices and games. It offers no guarantees of victory on the field but is an apt symbol for the little college's fighting spirit to survive—and make a name for itself—in the increasingly competitive world of higher education.

For the past 14 years, Wolk has labored to transform Castleton from a tiny, isolated college into a growing university with adequate funding, marketable programs and satisfied students. Last month, it got a new name: Castleton State College became Castleton University.

"Not a lot of colleges are planning on increasing their enrollment these days," said Vermont State Colleges chancellor Jeb Spaulding, who oversees Castleton and four other state colleges. "Dave's different. His plan is, 'I'm building something that's attractive.'"

"He's the pied piper of Castleton and Rutland County."

Just as impressive is the fact that 62-year-old Wolk managed to remake Castleton while he waged another, personal battle. Beneath the engraved tale of the Spartan king, there's a hint at that story, too. In small type at the bottom of the rock, it reads, "In honor of Dr. Diane Wolk."

Wolk's life is so intertwined with his work at Castleton that he brought in this monument, at his own expense, not just to create a Castleton tradition, but as a tribute to his wife. Diane Wolk was a longtime teacher, school principal, chair of the State Board of Education and one-time director of student teaching at Castleton. She was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease in 2007, on her 57th birthday, four years after she first started noticing symptoms.

David Wolk watched in awe as his wife accepted her fate and even strove to demystify

the cruel disease. In 2008, she rallied 400 friends to take part in a “Walk With Wolk” Alzheimer’s fundraiser, and, while the disease had already started to affect her mind, she addressed the crowd. Quoting Lou Gehrig, she said she felt like the luckiest person in the world.

“She just stood up and was very brave,” Wolk recalled. “The monument is a testament to a woman who had a lot of courage.” Diane Wolk died last month.

“THE CASTLETON WAY”

Tony Volpone was the football coach for opposing Endicott College when his team visited Castleton State College in 2013. Endicott defeated Castleton 43-7 that day, but the “losing” side left an indelible impression on Volpone.

He saw a stately new stadium filled with an enthusiastic crowd, a marching band, fans holding tailgate parties in the parking lot, a bouncy house for kids. And at the end of the game, the team locked arms and led the crowd in the singing of the alma mater.

“I was so impressed with what I saw,” Volpone said. “It made me go, ‘Wow, I could really see myself here.’” A year later, he became Castleton’s head coach. Volpone credits Wolk for the scene that sold him.

For most of those home-game Saturdays, Wolk is in the crowd, beaming, with his soon-to-be-96-year-old father, Arthur. “It’s a beautiful thing,” he said. It’s what Wolk envisioned when he became Castleton president in 2001 and set in place a 10-year plan to boost the college’s profile.

Wolk was uniquely positioned when he took the job running the public college in his native Rutland County. The son of a local pediatrician, he graduated from Rutland High School and Middlebury College and went on to a career as a teacher, principal and school superintendent. Wolk also represented Rutland County for four years in the state Senate, made an unsuccessful bid for lieutenant governor in 1992 and served as chief of policy for governor Howard Dean before becoming state education commissioner.

By the time he took over at Castleton, he had experience navigating educational and political waters. Wolk also brought boundless optimism and salesmanship to the job.

Zachary Devoid of St. Albans, a senior computer information systems major and lacrosse player at Castleton, remembered meeting Wolk at the start of his freshman year. The president hosts a barbecue for new students every year at his on-campus house. Later, when Devoid’s lacrosse team was holding an all-night fundraiser in memory of a student, Wolk came by with pizza.

“He eats in the dining halls. He goes to sporting events,” Devoid said. “He’s very personable.”

“At orientation last year, he shook everybody’s hand and introduced himself. It was really cool,” said Cassie Papandrea, a senior English major from Orwell who was on campus last month getting ready for this year’s orientation.

Spaulding said he visited Wolk at Castleton recently and went off on his own to the gym. When he returned to Wolk’s house, he said, “I asked him, ‘How come all these students look me in the eye and open the door for me?’ He said, ‘It’s the Castleton way. They have to open doors for people, and they have to pick up trash.’”

In fact, there’s no rule about acting responsibly, but Devoid said the campus is so close-knit that people just do.

Wolk has created a campus atmosphere that makes students want to stay, said Scott Giles, president of Vermont Student Assistance Corp., whose organization administers college loans and interacts with a wide variety of colleges. Although its student-retention

rate hasn’t budged much in the last decade—it’s average, at 73 percent—Castleton’s six-year graduation rate has climbed by nearly 10 percent. Enrollment has grown from 1,598 in 2000 to 2,183 last year. The goal is to reach 2,500 by 2023.

Students, faculty and outsiders have noticed a difference.

“Castleton has been one of the real success stories,” Giles said, likening its emergence to Champlain College’s transformation from a two-year to a four-year school a decade and a half ago.

“Dave has been really, really successful in taking an institution that had a reputation as something of a suitcase college—where you can get a solid degree but you leave to do other things on the weekend,” Giles said. “What he’s really done is transform the campus. It’s a community that meets a student’s full range of needs.”

DOUBLE DUTY

Not every faculty member was convinced Castleton needed football, according to Louis “Tersh” Palmer, a union rep and English professor. Some “would like to see more emphasis on academics,” he said, and “throw all the rest of that stuff out.”

The football program has had some problems. In 2011, its first coach was forced to resign after allegedly violating National Collegiate Athletic Association rules by arranging loans for an athlete. In 2013, six players were suspended from the team following a scheme to steal sporting goods from a store.

In both cases, Wolk publicly acknowledged the fumbles and recovered the ball. “We will stay positive and upbeat as we move forward together as a family,” he said in response to the 2013 case.

He took the same approach to his wife’s illness. Diane Wolk, who’d been named the state’s teacher of the year in 1984, was the popular principal of Rutland’s Northeast Primary School when Alzheimer’s began to manifest itself. In his Woodruff Hall office, Wolk keeps a photo of her 2006 retirement; it shows his wife surrounded by smiling children—a happy spin on a somber moment.

Wolk likes to focus on the positive. He hands out cards printed in Castleton green that say, “Keep smiling.” And, amazingly, it works.

He tried to follow his own advice during the nine-year ordeal that Wolk calls the “long goodbye.” But he also acknowledged it’s been a roller-coaster ride. Asked how he managed the double duties of handling his wife’s illness and raising the college’s profile—two long but very different journeys—Wolk said candidly, “I didn’t.”

He relied on his team at Castleton, he said, and there were times he considered quitting to become his wife’s full-time nurse. But as the disease progressed, Wolk realized she needed professional care. Diane had chosen to move to Florida, where she could participate in Alzheimer’s research and access different levels of specialized care. Wolk said his wife actually preferred being far away because it spared her friends and colleagues the pain of watching her decline. “She didn’t want to make them sad,” he said with admiration. But for Wolk, who visited many weekends, it was a long haul.

“I think it’s been very difficult,” said Spaulding, who served in the state Senate with Wolk in the 1980s. “But I think Castleton University is part of his family. It’s part of what’s enabled him to continue.”

Wolk confirmed that Castleton was his salvation during that decade of decline. “I was able to dive into the college,” he said. “It gave new meaning to my life.”

Castleton had 12 athletic teams when Wolk arrived on campus. It now has 27, which is more than any other Vermont state college

or the University of Vermont. The school is providing Vermont students with an opportunity to play college sports in their home state. And they’re tuition-paying students. Because it is Division III, Castleton doesn’t offer athletic scholarships.

The school has added a lot more than sports teams. It has invested more than \$75 million in new construction and renovations to every building on campus. The college has gone from offering one master’s degree to 10, with plans to add doctorates in education and nursing practice.

While some Vermont state colleges have endured layoffs, Castleton has avoided them, according to Wolk. The college does plan to cut one program next year, though: its associate’s degree in nursing, a program that Vermont Technical College offers.

Wolk has also launched a variety of branded initiatives that are generating revenue: The Castleton Polling Institute, which conducts paid surveys for Vermont politicians and media outlets, is expanding and going national; the Castleton Center for Schools brought 800 Vermont teachers to campus this summer for continuing education; the Castleton Downtown Gallery showcases art—and the Castleton name—in downtown Rutland. The university also owns the Spartan Arena at Rutland’s Diamond Run Mall, a public operation that gives students real-world business experience. The college bought the building to accommodate its men’s and women’s hockey teams, which Wolk started in 2003. When they aren’t practicing or playing there, it’s a rental rink and fitness center.

The income-generating programs have been developed in response to a shrinking pool of college-age students and declining state funding. Vermont routinely ranks near the bottom in state support for its public colleges. This year, Vermont State Colleges will receive \$24.4 million from the state, which is split equally among the five colleges. Castleton’s allotment pays just 10 percent of its budget.

“We’re getting less money from the state this year than we got in 2008 or ‘09,” Wolk said, and he knows enough about Vermont politics to realize that is unlikely to change anytime soon.

The name change is also intended to counteract the lack of state funding. Wolk said he hopes Castleton University will attract more out-of-state students, who pay higher tuition. Currently, 74 percent of its students are in-staters. By 2023, Castleton’s goal is to have a 60-40 in-state versus out-of-state split. Wolk said Castleton’s main mission remains to serve Vermonters but will reflect the reality that there are fewer college-age students in the state. Castleton’s other programs within the community, including the polling institute and the Spartan Arena, are examples of other ways it’s contributing to the public good.

Particularly for international students who equate the word “college” with high school, the “university” designation should send a clearer message. Castleton had 25 students from other countries last year and expects 50 this year, Wolk said. The college upped its overseas admissions efforts by hiring a Chinese-American recruitment coordinator and making two trips to China last year, he said. As part of a residency, 13 Chinese scholars are due on campus this fall.

During the 15 years he’s taught at Castleton, English prof Palmer has seen enrollment and programs expand and the quality of students grow. “There really has been an improvement in morale, in offerings,” he said. Football, he acknowledged, helped.

WHAT’S IN A NAME CHANGE?

As Vermont’s colleges struggle with dwindling resources and occasional layoffs, can

the state afford to keep all five alive—plus the University of Vermont? In a recent commentary, Hinesburg author Bill Schubart took on the issue, arguing, “Vermonters can’t adequately fund six colleges in a time of declining enrollments.” He contended that renaming Castleton was not the answer.

“I really doubt that their new name will do much to solve the enrollment and cost challenges facing all our small state colleges, to say nothing of our students,” he said.

Spaulding, who took over as chancellor last year, said he’s heard all of those arguments before, but he sees no reason to consolidate. “We actually need the colleges we have,” he said.

Spaulding argued that Castleton’s name change will be good for all of them, adding that none of the other college administrators objected.

Each of the state colleges has—and should have—its own identity, Spaulding said. Lyndon has the largest percentage of out-of-staters, a strong meteorology program and an innovative electronic journalism program. Johnson is known for external degrees for nontraditional students, social service programs and the performing arts. The bread and butter of Vermont Technical College is its two-year engineering degree. Community College of Vermont offers an affordable start for students of all ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Castleton’s speciality is being less specialized. “It’s a small university that has a robust graduate program combined with broad academic programs,” Spaulding said. “It’s the only public higher ed institution in Vermont with a football team, and it’s got a very lively campus.”

Wolk acknowledged that the name change is really about perception.

When Richard Stockton College of New Jersey became Stockton University this year, the goal was to “raise the school’s profile, helping it attract faculty, students—especially graduate and international students—and raise funds,” the Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

Massachusetts state colleges changed their names in 2010, though they retained the word “state,” so that Bridgewater State College became Bridgewater State University.

Castleton students are buying into the idea that Castleton University carries just a little bit more prestige. “It means we’re expanding, we’re growing,” said Papandrea.

“It’s going to help the college bring in more students,” Devoid said. It might look a little jazzier on his résumé, too, he said.

For Wolk, the name change marks a major milestone for Castleton, which has actually had seven other appellations since 1787: It’s been Rutland County Grammar School, Vermont Classical High School, Castleton Seminary, State Normal School at Castleton, Castleton Normal School and Castleton State Teachers College. The Castleton State College designation dates to 1962.

“Modernizing our name reflects who we’ve become and who we aspire to be,” he said. “It’s a wonderful turning point for a wonderful institution.”

The idea for the name change emerged two or three years ago as Castleton administrators crafted Wolk’s second 10-year plan. Although he was a driving force behind it, the visionary president had to miss some of the meetings that made it happen, during which his staff pitched the idea to the Vermont State College committees. In the last few months, as his wife’s health worsened, he spent more time in Florida than Vermont. He was with Diane when she died there on July 4.

“Our goal was that her death be peaceful and painless,” he said. “It was that.” In the

weeks after, Wolk received hundreds of messages from his wife’s former students, colleagues and friends telling him how much Diane had meant to them.

“Kids just loved her,” said David Blow, a Castleton journalism professor who had Diane as a first-grade teacher. His mother, Lucille, who taught alongside her at Barstow Memorial School in Chittenden, told her son that Wolk’s was the most difficult condolence card she has ever had to write.

When the full Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees gathered July 23 to make a final decision on the name change, David Wolk traveled to Montpelier for the meeting. “I just wanted to be there, because it was historic,” he said. The vote was unanimous. Word went viral as Castleton spokesman Jeff Weld announced the move on Twitter and Facebook, and the university’s website got more than 10,000 hits.

Afterward, Wolk continued on to Burlington to board a plane for Florida, where two days later family gathered for a celebration of Diane’s life. In his eulogy, Wolk spoke about his wife’s courage.

“Her life was full of teachable moments, and this was the final one,” he said.

Diane Wolk’s family members divided her ashes for each to scatter as he or she wished. The next week, Wolk returned to Castleton. That Friday afternoon, he and two of their four children went to the Spartan monument and spread her remains at the base of the rock that honors and encourages brave souls.

REMEMBERING DOUG KENDALL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this past weekend, I learned of the untimely passing of Doug Kendall, founder of the Constitutional Accountability Center. Doug was a true visionary who helped transform how the American public views our Constitution. Despite a recent movement to interpret our founding charter in a cramped manner that too often leaves our most vulnerable populations unprotected, Doug was able to serve as a forceful counterweight and guardian of an inclusive, progressive, and faithful understanding of our National Charter, based on both the text and history of the document.

Under his leadership, the Constitutional Accountability Center revitalized the debate over the original understanding of the Constitution. Doug refused to cede the intellectual ground of originalism and textualism to conservative advocates. Significantly, the organization he founded was defined as much by its scholarship as its effective advocacy.

Doug made myriad contributions to the world of law and policy, but I will point out just two. First, I asked him to testify in March 2010 before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Supreme Court’s decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* because I knew that no one could better articulate the harm that the decision would cause to our democracy. As he eloquently testified before the Committee, “Since the Founding, the idea that corporations have the same fundamental rights as ‘We the People’ has been anathema to our Constitution. . . . Corporations do not vote, they cannot run for office, and they are not endowed by the Creator with inalienable rights. ‘We the

People’ create corporations and we provide them with special privileges that carry with them restrictions that do not apply to living persons. These truths are self-evident, and it’s past time for the Court to finally get this right, once and for all.” While the Court was unable to get it right in Doug’s lifetime, I believe his views will come to be vindicated in time.

Second, this past year, I introduced a joint resolution with Senator MIKE LEE of Utah, celebrating the sesquicentennial or the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment, which, along with the 14th and 15th Amendments, make up our Nation’s “second founding.” The second founding, which has served as the bedrock and inspiration to procuring equality for racial minorities and women, has too often been overlooked by the general public and constitutional scholars. Doug and his organization were the intellectual driving force behind advancing this important resolution. His contributions to the world of law and policy will be sorely missed.

As accomplished as he was as an advocate and scholar, Doug was an even better person. My staff met with him countless times and always came away inspired by his intellect and humanity. An article in the *Washington Post* from January 2008 about the historic endorsement that then-candidate and Senator Barack Obama received from Senator Ted Kennedy noted that Doug was there with his then 8-year old daughter, Miracle. Doug had pulled Miracle out of her elementary school that day so that she could experience the historic nature of the President’s candidacy and the bridge between former President Kennedy and future President Obama. He stated in the article that he wanted his daughter, Miracle, to be inspired. What she will come to know—if she does not already—is that her father’s life and his accomplishments have helped to inspire a new generation. Doug Kendall has reminded us about the ever-more inclusive story that is reflected in our Constitution. His life was cut short, but his vision—like the Constitution itself—will continue to endure and inspire. The Nation has lost a true patriot with his passing.

RECOGNIZING KING ARTHUR FLOUR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, each year, it is with great pride that I participate in a reception here on Capitol Hill to showcase some of the best products conceived, developed, and produced in Vermont. One such company featured at the annual Taste of Vermont event is King Arthur Flour, where, for 225 years, generation after generation has produced quality cooking and baking ingredients.

A firm that was born in Boston more than two centuries ago, in 1984 then-owners Frank and Brinna Sands moved King Arthur Flour to Norwich,